

## EDITORIAL

Members of the Wilson Club who attended the Ninth International Ornithological Congress in France, in 1938, are not surprised to learn of the success of the Tenth Congress, the formal sessions of which were held June 10 to 17, 1950, at Uppsala, Sweden. Alexander Wetmore served as president, and Sven Hörstadius, of the University of Uppsala, as general secretary. The program included sessions devoted to evolution and systematics, migration and orientation, population dynamics, behavior, regional faunas, paleontology and anatomy. There was a round table discussion of bird banding. Headquarters were the student commons, 'Värmlands Nation,' at the University, and meetings were held in certain University rooms and a large hall adjacent. The 350-some persons who registered represented more than 25 countries. Just before the Congress there were excursions in southern Sweden, the University at Lund serving as a base. During the meetings there were visits to the forested country north of Uppsala, to certain islands off the coast, and to the town and country homes of Linnaeus. These last are maintained as public shrines. After the meetings there were long trips to Abisko and Ammernäs in Swedish Lapland. North Americans in attendance were the Arthur Allens, Dean Amadon, the Edward Chalifs, Lee Crandall, Jean Delacour, Herbert Friedmann, the Alfred Grosses, Mrs. J. Kelly, the F. C. Lincolns, the Hoyes Lloyds, the Robert Murphys, the Walter Naumburgs, the Roger Petersons, the Richard Poughs, the Dillon Ripleys, W. E. C. Todd, the Carll Tuckers, Josselyn Van Tyne, the C. Vauries, the William Vogts, and Alexander Wetmore. The W. H. Phelps, both senior and junior, were there. The Phelps divide their time between the United States and Venezuela.

As additions to, and replacements in, the committee of 100 forming the permanent body of the Congress, the following were elected: representing Canada, Hoyes Lloyd and L. L. Snyder; representing Venezuela, W. H. Phelps, Sr.; representing Brazil, Oliverio Pinto; representing Colombia, Armando Dugand; representing Chile, R. A. Philippi, B.; representing the United States of America, H. G. Deignan, A. H. Miller, A. L. Rand and J. Van Tyne. Dr. Wetmore was the Chairman of the official United States delegation named by the State Department.

The next congress will be held in Switzerland in 1954 and A. Landsborough Thomson, of England, will serve as president.

We are glad to learn from our newly appointed Membership Committee that a special effort is being made to increase the size of the Club. An outsider attending one of our meetings would hardly say that we needed more members—but we do. Every new member adds appreciably to our stature, knowledge, and power. The larger our Club the larger our *Bulletin* and the greater our influence. The best members are those who join not as a personal favor, but because of their abiding love for, and interest in, birds. If you know some one who should be a member send the name and full address of that person (typed or printed clearly, with the Miss, Mrs., Mr., or Dr. clearly indicated) to any of the following Membership Committeemen:

Seth H. Low, Chairman, Patuxent Research Refuge, Laurel, Maryland  
Ralph M. Edeburn, Assistant Chairman, Marshall College, Huntington, West Virginia  
Aaron M. Bagg, 72 Fairfield Ave., Holyoke, Massachusetts  
Donald J. Borror, Dept. of Zoology and Entomology, Ohio State University, Columbus  
Robert C. Conn, 769 Park Ave., Bound Brook, New Jersey  
Fred T. Hall, Davenport Public Museum, Davenport, Iowa  
Hal H. Harrison, 1102 Highland Street, Tarentum, Pennsylvania  
Theodora G. Melone, Geology Library, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis  
Harold D. Mitchell, 378 Crescent Ave., Buffalo 14, New York  
Mrs. Dorothy Neal, P. O. Box 133, Demorest, Georgia

Four times a year *Bulletin* readers look at the black-capped warbler on the front cover—but how well do they know the bird? Though described in 1811, it has not been studied much, especially on its breeding ground. A paper on its nesting, accompanied by excellent kodachromes, has been submitted to us. We would like to reproduce one of the kodachromes in full color in 1951.

A color-plate costs at least two hundred dollars. The earnings of our Endowment Fund are large enough to meet the cost of one color-plate a year and this plate has been, traditionally, the frontispiece for the March issue. The color-plate for March, 1951 has already been arranged for, but we would like to present a Wilson's Warbler plate in June or September. We appeal, therefore, for contributions. We hope that further moneys for this color-plate fund may be obtained through auctions of original bird drawings. Since members of the Club may desire copies of the Crimson-collared Grosbeak picture in this issue, we have had an extra supply run off. These we are selling at twenty-five cents each. This money will go into the color-plate fund. Send your order to the editors.

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Just as we go to press word reaches us of the death, on October 31, 1950, of Gertrude A. (Mrs. Henry J.) Nunnemacher, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Although never actually a member of the Wilson Club, Mrs. Nunnemacher was interested in birds all her life. Especially interested was she in the birds of México, a country she and her husband visited many times. The colored frontispiece in this issue of *The Bulletin* was made possible through her generosity. We hope that her relatives and friends, as well as members of the Club, will enjoy this picture.

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Glowing with pride, we learn that the splendid new biology building at West Virginia University is to be named Brooks Hall—"in honor of the Brooks family of Upshur County whose sons have contributed extensively to West Virginia's biological research and to the state's biological literature." The four distinguished brothers, Alonzo Beecher Brooks (known to all his friends as 'A.B.'), Fred Ernest Brooks, Chandler Linn Brooks, and Earl Amos Brooks have, indeed, been great West Virginians, every one of them. And the son of the second of these brothers is our own Maurice Graham Brooks.

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By invitation the Wilson Ornithological Club was officially represented at the inauguration of Dr. Gordon Gray as President of the Consolidated University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill, October 8-10. Maurice Brooks asked Eugene P. Odum to serve us in this capacity. Dr. Odum has been a member of the Club's Council and he is now on our Editorial Committee. He is a graduate of North Carolina. His father, Howard W. Odum, is one of the most distinguished professors on the faculty of that university.

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The following have been appointed as the Club's Conservation Committee: Robert A. McCabe, Chairman, William W. H. Gunn, Henry S. Mosby, William H. Elder, and Charles M. Kirkpatrick.

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I. B. Boggs, of Morgantown, West Virginia, has consented to serve as a member of the Club's Endowment Committee. Leonard C. Brecher, of Louisville, Kentucky, is Chairman.

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Making certain that a species of bird does *not* occur in a given area at particular seasons is far harder than ascertaining that it does, but knowledge of this sort is important and should not be neglected. From evidence of occurrence, and from that alone, we have long assumed that the House Wren (*Troglodytes aëdon*) is replacing the Bewick's Wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*) in many places because the latter cannot compete with the former. Yet is it not possible that the reverse is true: that the House Wren can gain a foot-hold only after the Bewick's Wren has declined in numbers? Wilson Club members living in regions now occupied by the Bewick's

Wren, but threatened by southward spread of the House Wren, can make a real contribution to the solution of this problem by determining the population and density trends of the Bewick's Wren in their regions *now*. The Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*), too, is to be watched. Is it disappearing from the southern part of its breeding range? And what bird species are being affected by the southward spread of the breeding of the Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*)?—Allan R. Phillips.

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In a recent issue of *Bird-Banding* (1950. 21: 105–11), B. M. Shaub reported that the repeat behavior of Greater Redpolls at banding traps was notably different from that of Common Redpolls. "The Greater Redpolls repeated on an average of 9.6 times per individual [during a 35-day period] while the Common Redpolls repeated only 0.2 times per individual." Mr. Shaub has not given his birds scientific names, but he obviously thinks of these two Redpolls as distinct species. We wish that he had preserved at least two of the heaviest of his Greater Redpolls—one as a skin and one as a skeleton. The morphological characters of these specimens would be of great interest and value to taxonomists.—G. M. S.

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Dr. Herbert Friedmann, Curator of Birds at the U. S. National Museum, is in Africa continuing his study of the parasitic breeding habits of birds. He is travelling through South Africa and southern Rhodesia, focussing his attention upon the Indicatoridae, the Honeyguides. En route to Africa he visited museums in Denmark, Holland, Belgium, France, Italy and England. His work is supported by grants from the American Philosophical Society and Guggenheim Foundation.

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From Dr. A. J. Marshall of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College in London comes this appealing letter, dated September 1: "I wonder if you could help me? I borrowed No. 4 of Volume 61 (December, 1949) of *The Wilson Bulletin* from the Library of the London Zoo—and, god help me, I've just spilt an enormous mug of tea over the damned thing. The combination of strong Australian-brewed tea and glossy American paper doesn't augur well for a final neat English binding and so in order to prevent an international incident between this Department and the Zoo I wonder could you please let me have a copy to give them? If you have one to spare I will arrange for some American friend to send the 50 cents in order to avoid the usual delay in transmitting money to the U. S." The needed copy has been received by Dr. Marshall.

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The editors are grateful to the following for assistance in preparing for publication the material presented in this issue: John W. Aldrich, Aaron M. Bagg, William L. Brudon, L. Irby Davis, Eugene Eisenmann, Herbert Friedmann, John L. George, Mr. and Mrs. Richard R. Graber, William A. Lunk, A. D. Moore, Margaret Morse Nice, Robert W. Storer, James T. Tanner, and Dale A. Zimmerman. They are especially grateful to Elsa Hertz for her cheerful willingness to retype manuscripts.